

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 3, 2025

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2025–26 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 308

Introduced by Assembly Member Ramos

January 23, 2025

An act to add ~~Section 16529.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to child welfare. Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 8300) to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to behavioral health.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 308, as amended, Ramos. ~~The Family Urgent Response System. Mobile crisis teams or units: procedures.~~

Existing law sets forth various provisions relating to mobile crisis teams, including with regard to behavioral health crisis services under the Miles Hall Lifeline and Suicide Prevention Act, involuntary commitment under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act, and community-based mobile crisis intervention services through a Medi-Cal behavioral health delivery system under the Medi-Cal program. Existing law sets forth related provisions for mobile crisis units.

Existing law requires a regional center, which serves individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities, to implement an emergency response system for, among other groups, consumers who receive mobile crisis services. Existing law requires a regional center and a county mental health agency to develop a general plan for crisis intervention for persons served by both systems.

Existing law establishes an advisory council for purposes of developing recommendations for improving outcomes of interactions

between law enforcement and people with intellectual or developmental disabilities or with mental health conditions.

This bill, in the case of a county that operates, or that contracts for the operation of, a mobile crisis team or unit, would authorize the county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the mobile crisis team or unit that include the handling of an emergency situation, or a crisis incident, involving an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability or an individual with a behavioral health condition.

The bill would require the procedures, if developed, to address certain items, including deescalation techniques. The bill would authorize the director to develop training, in conjunction with law enforcement, for those procedures.

~~Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to establish a statewide hotline as the entry point for the Family Urgent Response System, as defined, to respond to calls from caregivers or current or former foster children or youth during moments of instability, as specified. Existing law requires the hotline to include, among other things, referrals to a county-based mobile response system, as specified, for further support and in-person response. Existing law requires the department to collect deidentified, aggregated data, including the number of current and former foster children or youth served through the statewide hotline and the disposition of each call, and requires the department to publish a report on its internet website, as specified.~~

~~Existing law also requires county child welfare, probation, and behavioral health agencies, in each county or region of counties, as specified, to establish a joint county-based mobile response system that includes a mobile response and stabilization team for the purpose of providing supportive services to, among other things, address situations of instability, preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth, and stabilize the situation.~~

~~This bill would authorize a county behavioral health director to develop procedures for the county's mobile response system, which may include procedures for handling an emergency situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health issue, or another developmental disability. The bill would require those procedures to include, among other things, deescalation techniques for an individual that takes into account their specific circumstances to preserve their safety and well-being. This bill would authorize a county behavioral~~

health director to create training for those procedures and would require that training to be developed in conjunction with law enforcement.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 *SECTION 1. Chapter 10 (commencing with Section 8300) is*
2 *added to Division 8 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, to read:*

3
4 *CHAPTER 10. COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MOBILE CRISIS*
5 *PROCEDURES*

6
7 8300. *For purposes of this chapter, “intellectual or*
8 *developmental disability” has the same meaning as “developmental*
9 *disability” in Section 4512.*

10 8301. *(a) In the case of a county that operates, or that*
11 *contracts for the operation of, a mobile crisis team or a mobile*
12 *crisis unit, the county behavioral health director may develop*
13 *procedures for the mobile crisis team or unit that include the*
14 *handling of an emergency situation, or a crisis incident, involving*
15 *an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability,*
16 *including, but not limited to, autism, or involving an individual*
17 *with a behavioral health condition.*

18 *(b) If procedures are developed pursuant to subdivision (a),*
19 *they shall address all of the following:*

20 *(1) Deescalation techniques for an encounter with an individual*
21 *described in subdivision (a) that take into account the individual’s*
22 *specific circumstances, in order to preserve their safety and*
23 *well-being.*

24 *(2) The appropriate amount of force to use on the individual,*
25 *if necessary.*

26 *(3) Guidance and best practices regarding transportation of*
27 *the individual to their designated health facility or care facility,*
28 *if applicable.*

29 *(c) (1) A county behavioral health director may develop training*
30 *for procedures developed pursuant to subdivisions (a) and (b).*

31 *(2) If training is developed pursuant to paragraph (1), it shall*
32 *be developed in conjunction with law enforcement.*

1 SECTION 1. ~~Section 16529.5 is added to the Welfare and~~
2 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

3 ~~16529.5. (a) A county behavioral health director may develop~~
4 ~~procedures for the county's mobile response system, which may~~
5 ~~include, but are not limited to, the handling of an emergency~~
6 ~~situation involving an individual with autism, a behavioral health~~
7 ~~issue, or another developmental disability.~~

8 ~~(b) If a county behavioral health director develops procedures~~
9 ~~pursuant to this section, those procedures shall include all of the~~
10 ~~following:~~

11 ~~(1) Deescalation techniques for an encounter with an individual~~
12 ~~that takes into account the individual's specific circumstances to~~
13 ~~preserve their safety and well-being.~~

14 ~~(2) The appropriate amount of force to use on an individual, as~~
15 ~~necessary.~~

16 ~~(3) Guidance and best practices regarding the transportation of~~
17 ~~an individual to their designated health care facility.~~

18 ~~(c) (1) A county behavioral health director may create training~~
19 ~~for procedures developed pursuant to subdivision (a).~~

20 ~~(2) Training developed pursuant to this section shall be~~
21 ~~developed in conjunction with law enforcement.~~